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LETTER DATED 23 FEBRUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that on 17 February 1997, at 1900 hours, two Kuwaiti armed patrol boats violated Iraqi territorial waters, near buoy marker 23, before returning to Khur Al-Aya.

We request you to take steps to induce the Kuwaiti Government to call a halt to these acts of aggression and provocation which it perpetrates unremittingly, in defiance of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law, and which, instead of helping to establish security in the region, only create a climate of tension.

We also reaffirm the natural right of the Republic of Iraq to claim compensation, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility, in order to repair the damage caused by these unjustified United States actions.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-04730 (E) 240297 240297